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STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

31st May, 1948.

To the Chairman and Members,
Sherborne Urban District Council.

Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1947.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of Article 17(5) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935.

I am indebted to Mr. Bean, your Sanitary Inspector, for his co-operation and help during the year, and for his assistance in preparing this report, and to my clerk, Miss L. Davidge, for her efficient services.

I would also like to thank you, Madam and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

Medical Officer of Health.

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
TO THE
SHERBORNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.
for the year
1 9 4 7.

A. Area - 1,650 acres.
Rateable value - £5,657.
Production of a penny rate - £224.

Vital Statistics.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 6,594

LIVE BIRTHS -

	Male.	Female.		(a) North Dorset	(b) England & Wales.
Total (110)	65	45	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 16.6	19.7	20.5
Legitimate	63	41			
Illegitimate	2	4			

STILLBIRTHS -

Total (4)	2	2	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 0.6	0.3	0.5

DEATHS -

Total (91)	42	49	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 13.8	14.2	12.0
Deaths in infants under 1 year - 5			Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births - 45.4	33.8	41.0

Deaths from Maternal Causues - Nil.
" " diarrhoea in infants - Nil.
" " road traffic accidents - 2
" " other violent causes - Nil.

B. Personal Health Services in the district.

In view of the impending operation of the National Health Service Act 1946 in July next, for record purposes, it is considered worth while noting the present medical arrangements in the district.

Private Medical Practice -

There are 6 Medical Practitioners practicing wholly or in part in the district.

Professional Nursing in the home -

Under arrangement made by the Dorset County Nursing Association one District Nurse is resident in the district.

General Hospital Facilities -

The Yeatman Hospital (60 beds) provides general hospital facilities for Sherborne and adjacent rural areas. The hospital is staffed by local Medical Practitioners. There is no visiting consulting specialist staff. The hospital is provided with a well equipped out-patient department, has a separate childrens' ward, and a maternity unit of 12 beds.

Ambulance Facilities -

One ambulance for general purposes is provided and maintained by the Sherborne & District Ambulance Committee and is stationed at the Yeatman Hospital. The infectious diseases ambulance for the North Dorset district, provided by the North Dorset Joint Hospital Board, is stationed in Sherborne. Where conveyance by car alone is necessary, provision is made by the Voluntary Hospital Car Service which is available through the county area.

Midwifery Service -

The Dorset County Council, through the agency of the County Nursing Association, provide a domiciliary midwifery service in the district. A District Nurse/Midwife is resident in Sherborne.

Maternity cases admission to hospital are admitted under the County Scheme to the Yeatman Hospital, Sherborne.

Nursing Homes -

There are no registered Nursing Homes in the district.

Laboratory Services -

The Dorset County Laboratory (a laboratory in association with the Medical Research Council) provides full laboratory facilities for the district.

Mortuary facilities are provided by the Sherborne Joint Burial Board and at the Yeatman Hospital, Sherborne. The latter mortuary is provided with suitable facilities for the carrying out of post mortem examinations.

Tuberculosis -

The tuberculosis service is provided by the Dorset County Council. The nearest available clinic is the County Clinic at Dorchester.

Venereal Disease -

The Venereal Disease Service is provided by the Dorset County Council. The nearest diagnostic and treatment clinic are held at the Yeovil Hospital.

School Health -

The School Health services are provided by the Dorset County Council. A minor ailment clinic, with a school Nurse in attendance, is held at the County Clinic at Sherborne. The nursing staff available with the Medical Officer, at routine School Medical inspections.

Child Welfare -

Child Welfare provision is made by the Dorset County Council. A health visitor is resident in Sherborne and a Child Welfare Centre is held weekly at the County Clinic.

C. Environmental Health Services.

1. Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

SANITARY STAFF.

C.E. Bean, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I., Sanitary Inspector, also Surveyor.
H. Shepherd, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.I., Assistant Sanitary Inspector for the purpose of meat inspection.

Clerical Staff -

3 clerks (part-time)

2. WATER SUPPLY.

No new major works of importance were carried out during the year. Extensions to the main have been provided to the McCreary Road and Harbour Road housing sites. New connections have been made as under:-

(a) domestic use	15
(b) agricultural purposes	1
(c) other purposes	2

1773 houses are provided with a supply direct to the house, 87 houses obtain their supply by means of standpipes.

Water Examination -

The number of samples taken during the year for bacteriological examination were as follows:-

Sherborne U.D.C. Public Supply	349
Lower Clatcombe Farm - Private supply	4
Higher Clatcombe Farm - Private Supply	1
Golf Course House, Castleton - Private supply	1
E.R. Hunt, Cheap Street - Private supply	1
St. Margarets, Cheap Street - Private supply	1

3 samples of the Sherborne U.D.C. public supply were taken during the year for chemical examination.

3. DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE.

Apart from the laying of part of the sewer in North Road, the laying of new sewers to new housing sites and the relaying of surface water drainage in Coombe Road, no major works in connection with drainage or sewerage were carried out during the year.

No further steps have been taken in connection with the Consulting Engineer's report on the Council's sewage works toward the provision of new works.

4. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

House Refuse. The local authority's scheme provides for the collection of house refuse weekly.

Salvage. The Council's scheme provides for a fortnightly collection of salvage from householders with a weekly collection in the main shopping centre. The amounts of salvage collected during the year are as follows:-

	T.	C.	Q.
Paper	67.	17.	1.
Pig Food	31.	-.	1.
Rags	1.	12.	-.
Metal	13.	3.	3.
Bones	3.	9.	1.
	117.	2.	2.

Cesspool Emptying. No provision is required to be made in the district.

5. RIVERS & STREAMS POLLUTION.

Informal action was taken during the year in connection with a number of firms regarding suspected pollution of the river by them.

6. SHOPS ACTS.

No inspections in connection with the above mentioned Acts were carried out during the year.

7. FACTORIES ACTS.

Details of the inspections carried out under this Act, together with defects found and action taken are summarised below:-

	No. of premises on register.	Inspections.	Written Notices.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	41	34	Informa 9
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	17	14	Nil.
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	12	12	Nil.
Total -	70	60	9

	No. of cases in which defects were -	
	Found.	Remedied.
Ineffective drainage of floors	2	2
Sanitary Conveniences Unsuitable or defective	2	2
Total -	4	4

No. of outworkers - 68.

8. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Informal action was taken in connection with two complaints with regard to smoke nuisances during the year.

9. SWIMMING BATHS.

There is one private swimming bath in the district available for use of the public during part of the year. When used by the public the bath is under the control of the local authority.

10. CAMPING SITES.

There are no licensed camping sites in the district. Informal action was taken during the year in respect to one movable dwelling.

11. VERMINOUS PREMISES.

No action was called for or taken during the year in respect to verminous or unclean premises.

12. RATS & MICE.

The scheme operated by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee has worked satisfactorily during the year. Contracts have been entered into with the Urban District Council for the regular inspection and treatment of the controlled refuse tip, sewers and sewerage works, and with numerous traders for the regular treatment of their trade premises.

13. RAG & FLOCK ACT, 1911 - 1922.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

14. SCHOOLS.

Sanitary inspection of schools and school canteens in the district were carried out during the year.

15. SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT.

1. Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	18
" " Informal notices served	18
" " Informal notices complied with	17
" " Statutory notices served	Nil
" " Statutory notices complied with	Nil.
No. of prosecutions	Nil.

16. HOUSING.

Although the local authority re-housed 47 families during the year, the general position remains far from satisfactory. Many families are living under unsatisfactory conditions with little hope of improvement in the near future. Owing to the large number of applications for houses amongst persons in the district, the Council decided to delete from the waiting list, for the present time, all applicants living outside the district.

During the year 18 recommendations for the granting of additional points on medical grounds in connection with their application for a Council house, were made by the Medical Officer of Health in respect to the conditions under which 28 applicants were living, following inspections carried out by him.

Until comparatively recently a Medical Officer of Health concerned with unsatisfactory housing conditions in his area was more disposed to consider the effects of bad housing on the physical rather than the mental health of those living under unsatisfactory conditions. At the present time, whilst many persons are still living in damp, insanitary houses detrimental to their physical health, I find myself, more and more, concerned with that equally large group of persons being forced to live in circumstances which can only be calculated to have serious effects on their mental health and happiness.

Many persons in this group are newly married couples who do not enjoy the happy advantage of starting their new life in a home of their own. Many of these are having to live in unsatisfactory furnished rooms at a rent beyond their capacity. Others are forced to share a home with their 'in-laws'. In some instances this arrangement works satisfactorily, but only too often it leads to that friction and mental strife which undermines an otherwise happy relationship with disastrous results to both parents and children alike

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

(1) Total No. of dwelling houses inspected during	
(a) the year for housing defects (under P.H. or Housing Acts)	12
(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose	30
(2) (1) No. of informal notices served	8
(2) " " " " complied with	7
(3) No. of Statutory notices served	-
(4) " " " complied with	-

Overcrowding -

(1) No. of cases of 'Statutory overcrowding' found and reported to Local Authority	23
(2) No. of cases of overcrowding abated	18
(3) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	1

Requisitioned premises -

No. of houses held under requisition by the Local Authority at the end of the year	10
No. of houses on which demolition or closing orders had been made, occupied under licence at the end of the year	8

New Houses -

No. of new houses provided by the Local Authority -

	Temporary Prefab.	Swedish Timber.	Traditional. Type.	Other.
(a) During 1947	20	-	20	-
(b) Post-War	40	-	24	-

17. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

1. Milk -

(a) Milk & Dairies Order 1926.

No. of farms in the district registered for milk production	9
No. of farms producing designated milk -	
(a) T.T.	4
(b) Accredited	4
No. of farms producing non-designated milk	5
No. registered dairymen (cowkeepers and milk sellers)	13
No. registered as wholesale	7
" " retailers	3
" " wholesale and retailers	3

(b) Cowsheds and Milk Shops.

No. of inspections made during the year	26
No. of cases in which contravention of the regulations were found	Nil.
No. of prosecutions undertaken	Nil.

(c) Milk (Special Designation Order) 1936 - 1941.

No. of licences granted during the year -

Tuberculin Tested -	
Dealers	1
Supplementary	Nil.
Pasteurised -	
Dealers	2
Supplementary	Nil.

(d) Samples.

No. of samples taken and submitted for examination during the year -

Tuberculin Tested	10
Accredited	33
Pasteurised	14

2. Other Food Premises.

No. of premises in the district subject to Section 13 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938	14
No. of such premises inspected during the year	14
No. of premises in the district subject to registration under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938	16
No. of such premises registered in respect to -	
(a) Ice Cream	14
(b) Sausage and prepared meat	2
No. of such premises inspected during the year	16
No. of samples of ice cream taken and submitted for Methylene Blue test	

Results:-		
	Grade 1	15
	Grade 2	-
	Grade 3	13
	Grade 4	21

Meat Inspection.

(a) Slaughterhouses -

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	1687	2506	1822	36
Number inspected	1687	2506	1822	36
All diseases except Tuberculosis.				
Whole carcases condemned	23	7	5	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	980	71	133	6
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	58.21	3.11	7.58	16.6
Tuberculosis only.				
Whole carcase condemned	32	-	-	-
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	228	-	-	5
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with tuberculosis	27.28	-	-	13.9

(b) Butchers and other shops -

Particulars of quantities condemned -

Corned Beef - 76 tins - 456 lbs.
Corned Mutton - 13 tins - 78 lbs.

Other Foods -

Particulars of quantities condemned -

305 items of food condemned.

18. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

No. of investigations carried out	1
No. of disinfections carried out	5

. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

Incidence.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-
Cerebro spinal meningitis	1	-	-
Measles	164	-	-
Whooping cough	15	-	-
Scarlet fever	2	-	-
Acute primary pneumonia	4	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	3	2	-
Pneumonia & Measles	1	1	-

Measles was prevalent amongst the general population during the first half of the year. In the latter quarter of the year a further increased number of notifications were received, but these were in respect to scholars in Boarding Schools in the town.

3 cases of infantile paralysis occurred during the year amongst the pupils at the Sherborne Boys and Sherborne Girls Schools.

Protection against Diphtheria.

The number of children who received treatment during the year is as follows:-

Under 5 years of age.	5 - 14 years of age.
56	4

This is an improvement on the preceding year when the corresponding figures were 35 and 5.

The 56 children (under 5 years of age) protected as compared with the number of births in the preceding year (96) suggest that a sufficient number of new babies are being protected to maintain the percentage number of children protected at a fairly satisfactory figure. Nevertheless, there is room for improvement until every child born is protected during its first year of life.

During the year you extended the scope of your scheme to provide for the giving of a 'reinforcing' injection at the time of school entry to children previously protected during their earlier years.

In order to draw the attention of all parents to the need of this 'reinforcing' treatment and in order to emphasise, to parents of children who had not already been protected, the value of treatment being given on school entry, arrangements were made with the Food Executive Officer for a suitable pamphlet to be issued with the new ration book issued to all children reaching five years of age.

Tuberculosis.

New Cases Notified.		Deaths.	
Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.	Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.
5	-	2	-

NOEL. F. PEARSON

Medical Officer of Health.